Bringing Foreign Channels under Indian legislation

3000. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign TV channels uplinked outside the country do not fall under the Indian laws and the code laid down for telecasting;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for a legislation to bring foreign channels in its ambit; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) Broadcasters of foreign TV channels uplinked from outside the country do not fall under the purview of Indian laws.

(b) and (c) Government propose to enact a comprehensive legislation with a view to, inter alia, bring foreign uplinked channels within its ambit. No timeframe for the same has been set. Meanwhile, the Government have decided on 25.7.2000 to permit all TV channels including foreign TV channels irrespective of their ownership, equity structure or management control to uplink from India provided they undertake to adhere the Programme and Advertising Codes laid down by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Installation of Transmitters in H.P.

3001. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to install transmitters to improve the television reception in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, how many transmitters are likely to be installed and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Eight transmitters are presently under implementation in Himachal Pradesh. These are expected to be installed in phases by the end of 2001.